This short historical summary on the roots of EIFLE is based on the Chapter of the organization’s history published in the FEDRA teacher’s training manual which is based on a summary written by Michele Guy. She and her husband Francoise were witnesses of the whole history. The organization’s history began when I was a very young girl just beginning to learn how to read and write.
Since NFP methods were and are – as we all here know very well – methods that respect human dignity and at the same time the reliability can be comparable to the contraceptive pill that was getting very popular as one of the most reliable methods to avoid conception.

The roots of EIFLE / IEEF

- roots of EIFLE go back to organizations founded in the USA
- American Bishops founded the organization Human Life Foundation (HLF) in Washington D.C.
- It was the answer to Paul VI’s demand in the encyclical letter Humanae Vitae (pub. in July 1968).
- HLF organized 3 international meetings in favor of Natural Family Planning.
1st meeting participants:

Drs. François and Michèle Guy from Grenoble (France) were invited to present the work they had done on Mauritius with the Action Familiale in the years 1963, 1965 and 1966.

Drs. John and Evelyn Billings, from Melbourne (Australia) were invited to present their method, which at that time was called the Ovulation Method (OM).
The symposium was organized by Larry Kane, the secretary of HLF.

This symposium led to the foundation of a connection office, which was entrusted to Dr. Claude Lanctot. The secretary was given the task to found a world-wide organization for NFP and to organize a founding congress.
Participants: all continents were represented at the congress: North, Central and South America, Africa, Europe, Asia / Indonesia.

The Human Life Foundation newsletter (vol. 4, no. 2, fall 1974) listed their names under the title "World NFP Conducts Founding Congress":

**Choice of the organization's name:** the name "International Federation for Family Life Promotion" (IFFLP) was chosen. Since the literal French translation "Fédération Internationale de Promotion Familiale" could not be used because the French and Spanish abbreviation FIPF was already used by an organization called "Planning International", the French name "Fédération Internationale d'Action Familiale" (FIDAF) was chosen referring to the Action Familiale of Mauritius.
Claude Lanctot, who had been responsible of the organization's secretariat in the past year, was employed by the board as the organization's executive director. For simplicity the office was moved from Canada to Washington D.C. The importance of Claude Lanctot's work for the life of the federation on all continents cannot be stressed enough. IFFLP owes him very much.

**Finances:** The function of IFFLP involved the costs for the secretariat in Washington D.C., the salaries of the executive director and the personnel, the trips of the board members, the organization of congresses and the development of the zones.

- The new board had the project to organize and conduct an international founding conference.
- Originally this congress was supposed to be held in India in 1975, but finally was held in 1977. The congress had a duration of 2 weeks!
- A Board was selected with a representatives from each of the 4 zones.
- The general assembly was translated simultaneously into three languages: French, English and Spanish.
The board of directors decided to have a world congress every three years. From 1977 to 1994 six world congresses were held.

These had plenary sessions with all members as well as separate sessions for each of the 4 zones.
The European Zone of IFFLP

• In 1983 the European Zone began to have regular meetings in Europe
• At least one meeting of the zonal council per year
• Other activities
• Organization of European congresses
IFFLP support for the European Zone was discontinued in 1989 because Canada’s government did not want to support IFFLP in Europe, which was not one of the developing countries like members of the other zones of the federation: Africa, America and Asia/Oceania.

She had already come to the European congress in Vienna (May 15-28, 1987) to meet Michèle Guy, then to Grenoble to discuss the usage of a generous donation for the European Zone.

Several meetings were held to discuss the usage of the money and how it could be organized.

Goal of the donation was the creation and funding of a permanent European secretariat, if possible in Brussels, with a paid secretary. To achieve this, IFFLP sent one of their employees, William Pruzenski, twice to search for a location and a responsible person.

In the middle of 1991, Anne Mélotte realized that the two trips of William Pruzenski, which had been paid from her money, did not show any success. She decided to stop her payments when she realized what financial difficulties the IFFLP in Washington was in. She wanted to see her money to be used only in Europe.
Its work will take place in an international context.

The Association will provide help to its members for this work as well as scientific and medical research appropriate to achieving these objectives.
EIFLE and IFFLP

• **From 1992 to 1996**, the end of IFFLP’s operation, IFFLP’s European Zonal Council and the board of EIFLE coexisted in parallel and were composed of the same people.
• The members were the European members of IFFLP
• After IFFLP ceased to exist, EIFLE and its members were on their own.